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SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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08/302,108 09/07/94 CLAPP

D 10676.1US01

EXAMINER

CHEN, A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2317

DATE MAILED:

04/30/96

B3M1/0430
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This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

☒ This application has been examined ☒ Responsive to communication filed on 9/7/94 ☐ This action is made final.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), — days from the date of this letter.
Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. 35 U.S.C. 133

Part I THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENT(S) ARE PART OF THIS ACTION:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited by Examiner, PTO-892. | 2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Art Cited by Applicant, PTO-1449. | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152. |
| 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes, PTO-1474. | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> |

Part II SUMMARY OF ACTION

1. ☒ Claims 1-53 are pending in the application.

Of the above, claims _____ are withdrawn from consideration.

2. ☐ Claims _____ have been cancelled.

3. ☐ Claims _____ are allowed.

4. ☒ Claims 1-53 are rejected.

5. ☐ Claims _____ are objected to.

6. ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

7. ☐ This application has been filed with informal drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.85 which are acceptable for examination purposes.

8. ☐ Formal drawings are required in response to this Office action.

9. ☐ The corrected or substitute drawings have been received on _____. Under 37 C.F.R. 1.84 these drawings are ☐ acceptable; ☐ not acceptable (see explanation or Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948).

10. ☐ The proposed additional or substitute sheet(s) of drawings, filed on _____, has (have) been ☐ approved by the examiner; ☐ disapproved by the examiner (see explanation).

11. ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed _____, has been ☐ approved; ☐ disapproved (see explanation).

12. ☐ Acknowledgement is made of the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119. The certified copy has ☐ been received ☐ not been received ☐ been filed in parent application, serial no. _____; filed on _____.

13. ☐ Since this application appears to be in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

14. ☐ Other

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Part III DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-53 are presented for examination.

Specification

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103 which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under subsection (f) or (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

4. Claims 1-8, 10-12, 13-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Shibata et al US Patent no 5,477,546.

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5. As to Claim 1, Shibata et al (Shibata) discloses a system for communicating with a communication channel and a separate host processor (Fig 13). Shibata does not explicitly disclose a peripheral housing separate from the computer system housing.

5 However, Shibata discloses the invention as a teleconference terminal equipment which implies a separate unit. Shibata further discloses that the unit can interface with a computer (Col 7 Lines 13-15).

Shibata teaches an audio/visual communication system
10 integral to the peripheral housing (Fig 1, Col 5 Lines 1-16).

Shibata discloses a source receive means (multimedia multiplexing and demultiplexing and interterminal signal unit, 8 Fig 1, Col 5 Lines 31-38) for receiving a source audio signal and a source video signal.

15 Shibata discloses local transmission means (network interface and communication network control unit) for transmitting the source audio signal and the source video signal transmitted over the communication channel (Col 5 Lines 24-26).

Shibata discloses local receive means (network interface and
20 communication network control unit) for receiving a remote audio signal and a remote video signal transmitted over the communication channel (Col 5 Lines 24-26).

Shibata discloses output means, comprising an output connector (RS-232 connector), for communicating the remote video

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signal between the local receive means and the output connector
(Col 7 Lines 13-22).

Shibata does not explicitly disclose the separate host processor, when coupled to the output connector, receives the remote video signal for displaying a corresponding video image on the display. However, since the data can be passed from the interface of the communication network, it is well known in the art that there are computer systems that can take the video output and display the video.

6. As to Claim 2, Shibata does not explicitly a local compression means for converting the source audio and video signals to associated local compressed audio and video signal of a predetermined compressed digital format. However, Shibata discloses audio and video codecs. It is well known in the art that audio and video codecs are a form of compression.

Shibata discloses a means for transmitting the local compressed audio and video signal over the communication channel (network interface and communications network control unit, Col 5 Lines 24-26).

7. As to Claim 3, Shibata does not explicitly disclose the local receive means comprises remote decompression means for converting remote decompression means for converting remote compressed audio and video signals of a predetermined compressed format received over the communication channel to associated

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remote decoded audio and video signal. However, Shibata has audio and video codec which will reverse the process of the encoded incoming data back to real video and audio data. It is well known in the art that codecs perform a compression and decompression. It is also well known the communication channel is usually the PSTN which is bandwidth restricted and compression is often used in transmitting data.

8. As to Claim 4, Shibata discloses the local receive means comprises means for automatically determining the format of the remote compressed audio and video signals(Col 5 Lines 34-38).

9. As to Claim 5, Shibata does not explicitly disclose the output means for receiving at the output connector a coordination instruction produced by the separate host processor and means for communicating the coordination instruction between the output connector and the local receive means. However, Shibata discloses that the output means could be connected to various devices to achieve higher degrees of conference functions (Col 13 Lines 11-17). This would allow the any device connected to the device to receive instructions and process them through the network.

10. As to Claim 6, Shibata does not disclose the output means comprises of an SCSI interface and a PCMIA interface. However, these interfaces are well known in the art along with the

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disclose RS-232 and RS-422. It would have been designer's choice in deciding which output means to pick.

11. As to Claim 7, Shibata does not disclose the source receive means comprises means for receiving the source video signal in one of a plurality of predetermined video formats. Shibata discloses the video format will be decoded using the CCITT Recommendation H. 261. Since the apparatus is a two-way device, the data would be encoded using the H. 261 which is a pre-determined video format.

12. As to Claim 8, Shibata discloses source receive means comprises means for receiving the source audio signal from a microphone and the source video signal from at least one of a video camera and a video media player (Fig 1).

13. As to Claim 10, Shibata does not explicitly disclose local receive means comprises audio reproducing means for broadcasting audio reproduced from the remote audio signal. However, Shibata discloses a speaker/microphone (14, Fig 1) in the apparatus (Col 6 Lines 34-39). It is obvious that this is used to reproduce remote audio signal since the apparatus is utilized as a video conferencing system.

14. As to Claim 11, Shibata does not explicitly disclose the local transmission means comprises means for transmitting a data file over the communication channel. However, Shibata does disclose a fax capability (Col 6 Line 43). The data

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multiplexor/demultiplexor is able to send fax information, computer data, video and audio information through the interface (Col 6 Lines 1-5). Fax data could be considered a data file.

Furthermore, since the apparatus has a RS-232 connection, a computer could send data file through that also.

15. As to Claim 12, Shibata does not disclose the local transmission comprises means for converting a standard data file to a compressed data file of a predetermined format; and the local receive means comprises means for converting a compressed data file of a predetermined compressed format to a standard data file. However, compression techniques are well known in the art and would be used in any limited bandwidth applications.

16. As to Claims 13-18, Shibata does not explicitly disclose software means. However, it is well known that a system is comprised of hardware and software. Shibata discloses the hardware aspects of what is claimed. It is obvious that the hardware is controlled by software in order to implement the functionality as described by Shibata. Claims 13-18 are rejected based on the arguments set forth previously.

17. Claims 19-26, 36 are rejected based on the arguments previously set forth.

18. As to Claims 27, Shibata discloses the local transmission means comprises means for transmitting the source video signal to the output connection means (Fig 1). Shibata does not explicitly

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disclose an output connection means comprises means for communicating the source video signal between the output connector and the separate host processor. Shibata does allow the host computer to be connected to the RS-232 connection which is connected to the local transmission means (Col 7 Lines 12-15).

19. As to Claim 28-29, Shibata does not explicitly disclose the separate host processor comprises means for displaying on the display video images associated with at least one of the remote and source video signals. However, since Shibata allows a host processor to be connected, it is well known in the art that images PC teleconferencing exists which displays source or remote video to be displayed on the host processor and simultaneously.

20. As to Claim 30, Shibata does not disclose a host processor comprises means for functioning by using one of a plurality of operating systems. However, it is well known that a host processor has to have an operating system in order in to operate.

21. As to Claim 31, Shibata does not disclose a host processor comprises detecting means for detecting an incoming communication received over the communication channel; and software sensing means for producing a detection signal in response to the detecting means detecting an incoming communication. However, it is well known in the art that host processors have detecting means to detect incoming communication i.e fax/modems and software sensing means for producing a detection signal

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(fax/modem software). It would be obvious to do so in order to inform the user of an incoming call.

22. As to Claim 32, Shibata does not disclose the host processor comprises software alerting means for generating an alert message
5 displayed on the display in response to the detection signal.

However, it is well known in the art that software exist to inform users of incoming communication by generating an alert message i.e. Microsoft Mail.

23. As to Claim 33, Shibata does not explicitly disclose an
10 interface means for receiving at least one of an answer coordination instruction and a decline coordination instruction from a user of the audio/visual communication system in response to the alert message; and means, responsive to the answer coordination instruction, for coordinating receiving of the
15 incoming communication. Shibata does disclose the man-machine interface for the apparatus which allows users to coordinate conferences. Although the interface is geared for the display on the apparatus, it is well known in the art to simultaneously display the interface on a connected computer. Although Shibata
20 does disclose a decline coordination instruction, it is well known in the art that declining a conference is an option.

24. As to Claim 34, Shibata does not disclose means for displaying a video image associated with the remote decoded video signal within a video window displayed on the display and means

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for modifying the size of the video window displayed on the display. However, it is well known in the art that the remote video can be displayed within a video window and that window can be sized i.e. Microsoft Windows.

5 25. As to Claim 35, it is well known in the art that a host processor comprises user interface means for interpreting graphical indicia presented on the display to a corresponding coordination instruction i.e. Microsoft Windows menus.

10 26. As to Claim 37, it is well known in the art the video signals exists in NTSC format, PAL format, or an S-video format. Shibata discloses that the video signal will be compressed using a CCITT standard format.

15 27. As to Claim 38, Shibata discloses a two-way system of compressing and decompressing information. It would be obvious if the information is being compressed on the way out, it would be decompressed on the way in.

20 28. As to Claim 39, Shibata does not explicitly disclose means for automatically determining the format of the remote compressed video signal. However, it is well known in the art the ability to discern the format of compressed video signal.

29. Claims 40-53 are rejected on the arguments set forth above.

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30. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Shibata as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Koz et al US Patent no 5,479,405.

31. As to Claim 9, Shibata does not teach selectively switching between analog communication channel and a digital communication channel. Koz et al (Koz) teach selectively switching between analog communication channel and a digital communication channel. (Col 2 Lines 33-38). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of the two references in order to offer a broader range of service (Col 2 Lines 45-49).

Conclusion

32. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent:	Issued:	Inventor:	Filed:
4,493,021	Jan 1985	Agrawal et al	Apr 1981
5,164,980	Nov 1992	Bush et al	Feb 1990
5,392,223	Feb 1995	Caci	Jul 1992
5,432,900	Jul 1995	Rhodes et al	Jun 1994

Serial Number: 08/302,108

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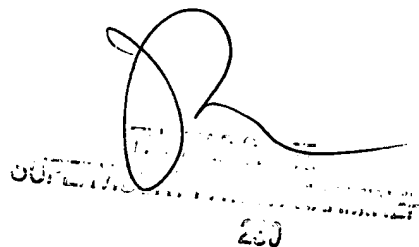
33. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Anderson Chen, whose telephone number is (703) 305-9593 or via email, ***achen@uspto.gov***. The Examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

5 If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Thomas C. Lee, can be reached at (703) 305-9717. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-5359.

10 Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

Anderson Chen

15 16 April 1996



A handwritten signature, possibly reading 'Anderson Chen', is written over a rectangular official stamp. The stamp contains the text 'SUPERVISOR' and 'THOMAS C. LEE' in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the signature, the number '230' is printed.